

## CLAIMS

1. A method of accessing a platform independent input method editor (IME) from an underlying operating system, comprising:

- (i) receiving keystrokes at an operating system-based input;
- (ii) forming a character sequence from said received keystrokes;
- (iii) from an operating system-based IME service module, calling said platform independent IME to convert said character sequence to a corresponding code point;
- (iv) transferring said code point to an operating system-based output.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein (i) comprises receiving said keystrokes at an active input control in an application associated with said operating system.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising converting said received keystrokes to a first encoding format suitable for editing said keystrokes at said active input control, and for forming said character sequence.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising converting said character sequence to a second encoding format compatible with said platform independent IME.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said platform independent IME is a Java-based Unicode IME, and said second encoding format is Unicode.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein calling said platform independent IME in (iii) comprises calling a Java IME character handling method via a Java Native Interface.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said operating system is a Windows operating system, and said Java IME character handling method is called from said operating system-based IME service module running on a Windows service manager.

8. A system for accessing a platform independent input method editor (IME) from an underlying operating system, comprising:

an operating system-based input for receiving keystrokes from a user;

an operating system-based IME service module for receiving a character sequence formed from said keystrokes, and for calling said platform independent IME to convert said character sequence to a corresponding code point;

an operating system-based output for outputting said code point.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein said operating system-based input comprises an active input control in an application running on said operating system.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising an operating system-based device driver configured to form a character sequence from said keystrokes received from the user, and to transfer said character sequence to said operating system-based IME service module.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said operating system-based device driver is configured to convert said received keystrokes to a first encoding format suitable for editing said keystrokes at said active input control, and for forming said character sequence.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein said operating system-based IME service module is configured to convert said character sequence to a second encoding format compatible with said platform independent IME.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein said platform independent IME is a Java-based Unicode IME, and said second encoding format is Unicode.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein said operating system-based IME service module is configured to call a Java IME character handling method via a Java Native Interface.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said operating system is a Windows operating system, and said operating system-based IME service module is configured to run on a Windows service manager.

5 16. A system for accessing a platform independent input method editor (IME) from an underlying operating system, comprising:

an operating system based input means for receiving keystrokes from a user;

an operating system based means for receiving a character sequence formed from said keystrokes;

10 an operating system based means for calling said platform independent IME to convert said character sequence to a corresponding code point; and

an operating system based output means for outputting said code point.

15 17. The system of claim 16, wherein said operating system based input means comprises an active input control in an application running on said operating system.

18. The system of claim 17, further comprising an operating system based device driver means configured to form a character sequence from said keystrokes received from the user, and to transfer said character sequence to said operating system based IME service module.

20 19. The system of claim 18, wherein said operating system based device driver means is configured to convert said received keystrokes to a first encoding format suitable to editing said keystrokes at said active input control, and for forming said character sequence.

25 20. A computer program product for providing access to a platform independent input method editor (IME) from an underlying operating system, the computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in the medium for providing access to a platform independent IME from an underlying operating system, the computer program code means including:

computer readable program code means for receiving keystrokes at an operating system based input;

computer readable program codes means for forming a character sequence from received keystrokes;

5 computer readable program code means for calling, from an operating system based IME service module, said platform independent IME to convert said character sequence to a corresponding code point; and

computer readable program code means for transferring said code point to an operating system based output.

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21. The computer program product of claim 20, further comprising computer readable program code means for receiving said keystrokes at an active input control in an application associated with said operating system.

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22. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising computer readable program code means for converting said received keystroke to a first encoding format suitable for editing said keystrokes at said active input control, and for forming said character sequence.

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23. The computer readable program product of claim 22, further comprising computer readable program code means for converting said character sequence to a second encoding format compatible with said platform independent IME.